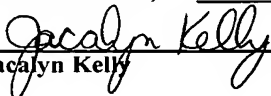


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: ) Docket No. DN2002113D01  
Terry Frank Allen, et al ) Confirmation No.  
For: METHOD FOR SPLICING A ) Art Unit:  
CONVEYOR BELT ) Examiner:  
Serial No.: ) I hereby certify that this correspondence is being  
Filed: ) deposited with the United States Postal Service as  
Express Mail in an envelope label No. EL014691005US  
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Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria,  
VA 22313-1450, on January 13, 2004.

  
Jacalyn Kelly H-13-04

Mail Stop DD  
Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. SECTIONS 1.56, 1.97 AND 1.98**

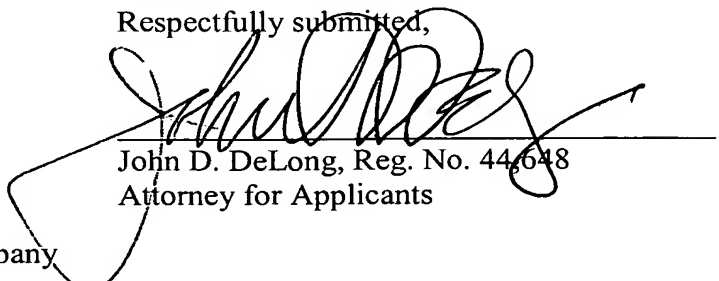
Dear Sir:

The material listed on accompanying PTO Form-1449 is cited in compliance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98. As to any materials supplied, Applicants do not admit that it is "prior art" under 35 U.S.C. Sections 102 and 103 and specifically reserve the right to antedate such material, as by a showing under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 or other method. The pertinence of each cited reference is briefly discussed below.

The reference listed on Form PTO-1449 are of record in co-pending Application Serial No. 10/225,950, filed August 22, 2002.

Applicants submit that none of the above cited references derogates from the patentability of the invention described and claimed in the subject patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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JDD/jsk  
Attachments

<b>FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use several sheets if necessary)	<b>ATTY DOCKET NO.</b> DN2002113D01	<b>SERIAL NO.</b>  <b>Confirmation No.</b>
	<b>APPLICANT (S)</b> Terry Frank Allen, et al	
	<b>FILING DATE</b>	<b>GROUP</b>

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub-class	Filing Date if Appropriate	
	3,487,871	01/06/70	Kanamori	156	266	09/07/66	
	4,153,772	05/08/79	Schwesig, et al.	526	308	05/20/77	
	4,548,663	10/22/85	Worcester	156	159	03/08/84	
	4,681,646	07/21/87	Pinto, et al.	156	157	06/11/85	
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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub-Class	Translation YES NO	
	WO 00/53952	09/14/00	WIPO				

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**

Examiner Initial		
EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED:	

**Examiner:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.